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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142614

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SHUM, BC

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: DRAFT BOTSWANA ACTION PLAN

REF: STATE 139160

1. COUNTRY PLAN

A. CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BOTSWANA

1. THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON
IS GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND IS RESPECTED IN
BOTSWANA. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OR ALLEGATION THAT PERSONS
IN BOTSWANA HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO TORTURE OR TO CRUEL,
INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT. IN BOTSWANA
HOMES CANNOT BE SEARCHED WITHOUT A WARRANT; THERE ARE NO
POLITICAL PRISONERS; AND PERSONS CHARGED WITH A CRIMINAL
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OFFENSE ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A
FAIR TRIAL WITH LEGAL COUNSEL.

2. IN TERMS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES BOTSWANA
GUARANTEES AND PERMITS FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION,
FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION, FREEDOM OF TRAVEL
WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD, AND THE FREEDOM TO OWN

PRIVATE PROPERTY.

3. (A) BOTSWANAN POLICIES DESIGNED TO FULFILL BASIC NEEDS OF THE POPULATION INCLUDE EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO MEET NEEDS OF THE RURAL POOR; AN INCOMES POLICY TO HOLD DOWN WAGES TO STEM RAPID URBANIZATION AND INFLATION; AND EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO MEET BOTSWANA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

(B) GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION IS NOT A PROBLEM IN BOTSWANA.

4. THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA HAS A MULTI-PARTY, DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. A CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR BOTSWANA'S NON-RACIAL SOCIETY, AND SHAPES PRESIDENT KHAMA'S PHILOSOPHY FOR APPROACHING THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. BOTSWANA'S SMALL WHITE MINORITY PARTICIPATES FREELY IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. BOTSWANA IS PROUD OF ITS RECORD OF PROVIDING HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS TO ALL ITS CITIZENS, WITHOUT PRESCRIBING SPECIFIC MINORITY RIGHTS IN THE CONSTITUTION.

5. BOTSWANA WELCOMES OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. FREEDOM HOUSE LISTS BOTSWANA AS BEING "FREE". AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENCOURAGES BOTSWANA TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT POLITICAL REFUGEES AGAINST FORCED
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REPATRIATION TO NEIGHBORING STATES.

B. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. IN THE CONTEXT OF POLITICAL OR CIVIL LIBERTIES THERE IS NO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN BOTSWANA. HOWEVER, DUE TO ITS STATUS AS A DEVELOPING NATION, BOTSWANA IS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE ITS CITIZENS AND REFUGEES FROM NEIGHBORING STATES ADEQUATE FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION. AN APPROPRIATE U.S. RESPONSE WOULD BE TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THROUGH OUR AID AND PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS. THIS WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO BOTSWANANS, AND OTHER OBSERVERS, THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THOSE NATIONS THAT ADHERE TO BASIC STANDARDS OF HUMAN DIGNITY.

2. BOTSWANA WOULD LIKELY SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS, IF WE CONTINUE TO FORCEFULLY PROMOTE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE JUDGED BY THE DILIGENCE WITH WHICH WE PURSUE MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. A SERIOUS SUSTAINED EFFORT TO PROMOTE A RAPID, PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,

WILL ENHANCE AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR OUR HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORT
IN MULTINATIONAL FORA.

3. N/A

4. (A) N/A

(B) BOTSWANA WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS
EFFORT IN THE UN AND OAU, WITH APPROPRIATE PROMPTING
ON OUR PART.

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON ABOVE
DRAFT ACTION PLAN BY JUNE 28. PLEASE SLUG REPLY FOR AF
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